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- ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER** \$149/yr

\*U.S. rates apply to citizens of Canada and Mexico.

NOTE: \$48 of membership dues goes toward a print subscription to *The American Biology Teacher*, for each year joined, except spouse members, in which case only the sponsoring active member receives a subscription to be shared by the two persons.

### Payment Method

NABT accepts checks drawn on U.S. banks, international money orders (payable to NABT), major credit cards, purchase orders, or join online at [www.nabt.org](http://www.nabt.org). Membership payments are non-refundable and all sales are final.

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### The March BioMystery Answer



Our photo is part of an immense antler from the extinct Irish deer (sometimes wrongly called an Irish "elk"). *Megaloceros gigantus* lived during the mid to late Pleistocene and ranged from Ireland to Siberia and China. Males produced the largest antlers of any known deer spanning 12 feet (3.7 meters) and weighing up to 100 pounds (45 kgs). As with all antlers they were likely used in dominance displays but probably not for actual fighting since they were not suited for battle biomechanically. The huge size of these antlers may have resulted from runaway sexual selection (the females preferred males with such exuberant displays).

This notion has been discussed by Steven Jay Gould who found that because these deer are so big their antlers would be expected to be promotionally larger (the principle of allometry), but then sexual selection took over. The cause of their extinction is debated, but the expense of producing such large ornaments (and shedding them each year) might have been impacted by a changing climate that reduced food availability or perhaps they simply could not browse effectively without getting their magnificent headgear tangled in tree branches.

The photo was taken in the National Museum of Ireland, Natural History Museum locally but affectionately called *The Dead Zoo*. Photo by W.F. McComas.